

Title:

Plenary Session on the Potential for Oil Shale Development in the United States

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The development of domestic oil shale resources has regained significant attention in the past few years. Several factors have contributed to this, including high oil prices, emerging recovery technologies, increasing world demand for liquid hydrocarbons, and the continued decline in U.S. conventional oil production. In recent years, several initiatives have been taken by the Federal Government and the private sector to encourage the development of a domestic oil shale industry.

The United States has vast deposits of oil shale – Nearly 2.0 trillion barrels across the eastern and western states. The development of this massive resource, however, is constrained, however, by a number of key factors including 1) resource access, 2) technology, 3) economics, 4) environmental and regulatory issues, and 5) infrastructure. A comprehensive analysis has been completed to address these issues and identify options to accelerate the development of this resource. The analysis is based on a representative sample (about 70 billion barrels) of western oil shale resource divided among multiple development “tracts.” Four (4) production technologies were also considered. These technologies included emerging in situ processes as well as traditional mining with surface retorting technology. Each development “tract” was screened for the potential application of each recovery technology. A detailed economic evaluation was conducted for each “tract” and the selected technology with consideration for development under alternative economics, environmental, technology, and socioeconomic options. The analysis indicated that with a concerted effort from industry, local, state, and federal governments, the oil shale production potential could reach *2.5 million barrels per day (MMBbl/d)* with substantial benefits to the local and national economy. The session will include five presentations:

Introduction and Energy Security/ EPACT 2005 Section 369

Overview of Emerging Oil Shale Technologies

Oil Shale Development Economics

Environment – Environmental Aspects of CO₂ & Water Management

Energy Efficiency – The Alberta Analogy

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